

In the United States Court of Federal Claims
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 15-1537V

Filed: September 19, 2016

* * * * *

UNPUBLISHED

CATHY BRUNO, parent and natural guardian*
of C.B., a minor, *

Petitioner, *

v. *

SECRETARY OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES, *

Respondent. *

* * * * *

Special Master Hamilton-Fieldman

Joint Stipulation on Damages;
Human Papillomavirus Vaccine;
Left Cranial Nerve VI Palsy.

Jeffrey A. Golvash, Brennan, Robins & Daley, P.C., Pittsburgh, PA, for Petitioner.

Heather L. Pearlman, United States Department of Justice, Washington, D.C., for Respondent.

DECISION¹

On December 17, 2015, Cathy Bruno (“Petitioner”) filed a petition on behalf of her minor child, C.B., for compensation pursuant to the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program.² 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34 (2012). Petitioner alleged that as a result of a human papillomavirus (“HPV”) vaccine administered on July 11, 2014, the minor suffered left cranial nerve VI palsy. See Stipulation for Award at ¶ 2, 4, filed Sept. 19, 2016. Petitioner further alleged that the minor suffered residual effects of this injury for more than six months. *Id.* at ¶ 4.

¹ Because this decision contains a reasoned explanation for the undersigned’s action in this case, the undersigned intends to post this decision on the website of the United States Court of Federal Claims, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, codified as amended at 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012). As provided by Vaccine Rule 18(b), each party has 14 days within which to request redaction “of any information furnished by that party: (1) that is a trade secret or commercial or financial in substance and is privileged or confidential; or (2) that includes medical files or similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy.” Vaccine Rule 18(b).

² The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program is set forth in Part 2 of the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755, codified as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34 (2006) (Vaccine Act or the Act). All citations in this decision to individual sections of the Vaccine Act are to 42 U.S.C.A. § 300aa.

On September 19, 2016, the parties filed a stipulation in which they state that a decision should be entered awarding compensation to Petitioner. Respondent denies that the HPV vaccination caused C.B.'s left cranial nerve VI palsy or any other injury, and further denies that C.B. experienced residual effects of this injury for more than six months. *Id.* at ¶ 6. Nevertheless, the parties agree to the joint stipulation, attached hereto as Appendix A. The undersigned finds the stipulation reasonable and adopts it as the decision of the Court in awarding damages, on the terms set forth therein.

The parties stipulate that Petitioner shall receive the following compensation:

- 1) **A lump sum of \$3,704.67, representing compensation for full satisfaction of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Medicaid lien, in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and**

**Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 8486
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-8486
Attn: Michelle Walfred
Re: CIS #730350924**

Petitioner agrees to endorse this payment to the Department of Human Services; and

- 2) **A lump sum payment of \$50,000.00, in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Cathy Bruno, as guardian/conservator of C.B.'s estate. 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(1)(B).**

These amounts represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). *Id.* at ¶ 8.

The undersigned approves the requested amounts for Petitioner's compensation. Accordingly, an award should be made consistent with the stipulation.

In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC Appendix B, the clerk of the court **SHALL ENTER JUDGMENT** in accordance with the terms of the parties' stipulation.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/ Lisa Hamilton-Fieldman
Lisa Hamilton-Fieldman
Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment is expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

| | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| CATHY BRUNO, parent and natural guardian of C.B., a minor, |) | |
| |) | |
| Petitioner, |) | |
| v. |) | No. 15-1537V |
| |) | Special Master Lisa Hamilton-Fieldman |
| SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES |) | ECF |
| |) | |
| Respondent. |) | |

STIPULATION

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. On behalf of her daughter, C.B., petitioner filed a petition for vaccine compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 to 34 (the "Vaccine Program"). The petition seeks compensation for an injury allegedly related to C.B.'s receipt of human papillomavirus ("HPV") vaccine, which vaccine is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the "Table"), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3(a).

2. C.B. received an HPV vaccination on July 11, 2014.

3. The vaccine was administered within the United States.

4. Petitioner alleges that C.B. contracted left cranial nerve VI palsy as a result of her HPV vaccination. She further alleges that C.B. experienced residual effects of this injury for more than six months.

5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages on behalf of C.B. as a result of her condition.

6. Respondent denies that C.B.'s left cranial nerve VI palsy or any other injury was caused-in-fact by her July 11, 2014, HPV vaccination, and further denies that C.B. experienced residual effects of this injury for more than six months.

7. Maintaining their above-stated positions, the parties nevertheless now agree that the issues between them shall be settled and that a decision should be entered awarding the compensation described in paragraph 8 of this Stipulation.

8. As soon as practicable after an entry of judgment reflecting a decision consistent with the terms of this Stipulation, and after petitioner has filed an election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), the Secretary of Health and Human Services will issue the following vaccine compensation payments:

- a. a lump sum payment of \$3,704.67, representing compensation for full satisfaction of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Medicaid lien, in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and:

Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 8486
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-8486
Attn: Michelle Walfred
Re: CIS #730350924

Petitioner agrees to endorse this payment to the Department of Human Services; and

- b. a lump sum payment of \$50,000.00, in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Cathy Bruno, as guardian/conservator of C.B.'s estate. 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(1)(B). This amount represents compensation for all remaining damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).

9. As soon as practicable after the entry of judgment on entitlement in this case, and after petitioner has filed both a proper and timely election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), and an application, the parties will submit to further proceedings before the special master to award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in proceeding upon this

petition.

10. Petitioner and her attorney represent that compensation to be provided pursuant to this Stipulation is not for any items or services for which the Program is not primarily liable under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), to the extent that payment has been made or can reasonably be expected to be made under any State compensation programs, insurance policies, Federal or State health benefits programs (other than Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.)), or by entities that provide health services on a pre-paid basis.

11. Payments made pursuant to paragraph 8, and any amounts awarded pursuant to paragraph 9 of this Stipulation will be made in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(i), subject to the availability of sufficient statutory funds.

12. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for attorneys' fees and costs and past unreimbursable expenses, the money provided pursuant to this Stipulation will be used solely for the benefit of C.B. as contemplated by a strict construction of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) and (d), and subject to the conditions of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g) and (h).

13. Petitioner represents that she presently is, or within 90 days of the date of judgment will become, duly authorized to serve as guardian/conservator of C.B.'s estate under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania. No payments pursuant to this Stipulation shall be made until petitioner provides the Secretary with documentation establishing her appointment as guardian of C.B.'s estate. If petitioner is not authorized by a court of competent jurisdiction to serve as guardian of the estate of C.B. at the time a payment pursuant to this Stipulation is to be made, any such payment shall be paid to the party or parties appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction to serve as guardian/conservator of the estate of C.B. upon submission of written

documentation of such appointment to the Secretary.

14. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 9, petitioner, in her individual capacity and as legal representative of C.B., on behalf of herself, C.B., and her heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns, does forever irrevocably and unconditionally release, acquit and discharge the United States and the Secretary of Health and Human Services from any and all actions or causes of action (including agreements, judgments, claims, damages, loss of services, expenses and all demands of whatever kind or nature) that have been brought, could have been brought, or could be timely brought in the Court of Federal Claims, under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 et seq., on account of, or in any way growing out of, any and all known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected personal injuries to or death of C.B. resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the HPV vaccination administered on July 11, 2014, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about December 17, 2015, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 15-1537V.

15. If C.B. should die prior to entry of judgment, this agreement shall be voidable upon proper notice to the Court on behalf of either or both of the parties.

16. If the special master fails to issue a decision in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation or if the Court of Federal Claims fails to enter judgment in conformity with a decision that is in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation, then the parties' settlement and this Stipulation shall be voidable at the sole discretion of either party.

17. This Stipulation expresses a full and complete negotiated settlement of liability and damages claimed under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended, except

as otherwise noted in paragraph 9 above. There is absolutely no agreement on the part of the parties hereto to make any payment or to do any act or thing other than is herein expressly stated and clearly agreed to. The parties further agree and understand that the award described in this Stipulation may reflect a compromise of the parties' respective positions as to liability and/or amount of damages, and further, that a change in the nature of the injury or condition or in the items of compensation sought, is not grounds to modify or revise this agreement.

18. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that HPV vaccine caused C.B.'s cranial nerve VI palsy, or any other injury.

19. All rights and obligations of petitioner hereunder shall apply equally to petitioner's heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and/or assigns as legal representative of C.B.

END OF STIPULATION

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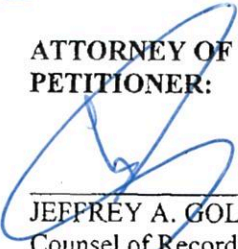
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Respectfully submitted,

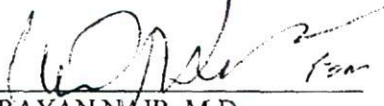
PETITIONER:


CATHY BRUNO

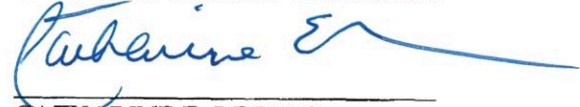
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Dated: 09/19/16